

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-1777 • Fax: 517-373-5871
E-mail: senjbarcia@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD31



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CONTACT: Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City)
(517) 373-1777

BARCIA WORKING TO PRESERVE FUNDING FOR M-84 EXPANSION PROJECT

(LANSING)—State Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) expressed optimism today that funding for the M-84 roadway expansion in Bay and Saginaw counties would be preserved in the transportation budget for fiscal year 2004.

The Senate Appropriations Chair announced yesterday that the 34 new highway construction projects that were being delayed, including the M-84 project, would be restored as part of a supplemental budget proposal to be taken up next week in committee.

“I’m working hard with my Appropriations Committee colleagues to maintain funding for this project in the state’s 2004 budget,” said Barcia. “The expansion of the portion of M-84 from Delta to M-13 in Bay County is very important for the communities in this area. I’m optimistic about the outcome of this proposal.”

As part of her “Preserve First” program, the Governor proposed holding off most new construction in the state until 90 percent of the state’s roads were rated in good condition. “I can certainly appreciate the administration’s efforts to maintain our existing roadways,” said Barcia. “However, the M-84 project is a critical construction project in this area. With substantial funds already provided for the initial construction phase, I am hopeful that additional funding can be appropriated to complete the project.”

State Senator Jim Barcia represents the 31st Senate District, which includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.

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